

April 24, 2008

Chairman Kevin J. Martin
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St. SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Proceeding No. 04-233, WCAU-TV

Dear Chairman Martin:

The Council of Spanish Speaking Organizations of Philadelphia, Inc., (“Concilio”) hereby submits this statement in support of WCAU-TV in Philadelphia.

Mr. Chairman, Concilio was founded on October 1, 1962, as a 501(c)(3), by a group of Latino leaders concerned with the many problems facing Philadelphia's Latino community. From its very beginnings, Concilio has been guided by a mission to ensure that equitable social, educational, health, and cultural services are available and affordable for everyone. For 46 years, the organization has provided opportunities to the most disadvantaged in North Philadelphia to obtain employment, health services, family counseling, adult and technical education, and cultural opportunities among others.

For past 12 years, I have had the fortune to lead this organization through some of the most challenging moments. A little more than decade ago, Concilio's future was threatened by mounting debt and financial insecurity. The prospect of dissolving the oldest Latino organization in the Commonwealth was all too real. Only a few corporate partners continued to support our work - one of these was WCAU-TV in Philadelphia.

Throughout my tenure as the Executive Director of Concilio, WCAU-TV has been a partner to this organization. They have provided unfettered access to their newsroom - allowing us to tell the public our side of the 'story' when other mainstream stations did not care to listen. We have enjoyed unprecedented access to WCAU-TV's PSA service to promote our many fundraising and cultural events throughout the year. We have enjoyed the personal relationship and financial commitment of the station's management in the work that we do.

Mr. Chairman, there have been many instances where I have received calls from the station asking us to pick-up toys, clothing, or event passes for the children in our neighborhoods; or to join them in a conversation over issues pressing the region's Latino community; or about their desire to sponsor a community event. Indeed, these actions go beyond any regulatory requirement; they are true indicators of the station's commitment and of a station that cares about the welfare of its community.

We wholeheartedly endorse WCAU-TV's work in Philadelphia and are grateful for their support in everything we do.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to address the Commission. I will be available to you at anytime should you have any concerns.

Sincerely yours,

Roberto R. Santiago
Executive Director